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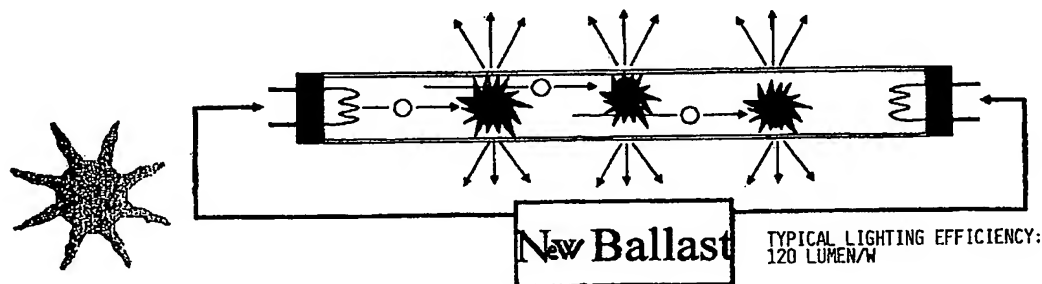
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(57) Abstract: A ballast for fluorescent tubes and the use thereof for producing fluorescent tube lighting fixtures using a novel gas excitation mode in which light is generated by means of controlled pulses leading to an increased power efficiency, with a data collection and transmission functionality, are disclosed.

WO 2005/046295 A1